



Dec. 9, 2011

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#### **Washington state ferries win national award**

Washington state's first new ferries of the 21<sup>st</sup> century have been named Significant Boats of 2011 by U.S. maritime industry publication WorkBoat Magazine. I am proud to share this great occasion with our partners Vigor Industrial and Elliott Bay Design Group. We're pleased that this new class of ferries has been recognized for the great vessels we know they are. For more information on the award, visit [www.workboat.com/Online-Features/IWBS11/WorkBoat-names-its-10-Significant-Boats-of-2011/](http://www.workboat.com/Online-Features/IWBS11/WorkBoat-names-its-10-Significant-Boats-of-2011/). For photos and more information about WSF's newest class of vessels, Kwa-di Tabil, visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Ferries/64CarFerries/default.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Ferries/64CarFerries/default.htm).

#### **New tool puts ferry ETA just a click away**

This week, WSF launched a new feature that provides customers the estimated time of arrival (ETA) for vessels throughout the system. ETA data is available at the bottom of the vessel watch webpage at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/vesselwatch/Default.aspx](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/vesselwatch/Default.aspx). The system calculates ETA based on a vessel's current location, departure terminal and destination. It compares the GPS and historical sailing data to the record of similar vessels at similar locations along the same route. Factors such as weather and marine traffic conditions can affect the ETA calculations. This tool is just one more piece of information that we can provide customers when they plan to take the ferry. This new ETA feature joins the customer Web-based toolkit, which includes [VesselWatch](#), [Best Travel Times](#) and [Terminal Cameras](#).

#### **Community meetings wrap-up**

We wrapped up the community meetings for the fall round this week with visits to the Jefferson County Chamber on Monday, Bainbridge Island on Tuesday and Kingston on Thursday. I thoroughly appreciate the customers and community members who carved out time from their schedules to attend one of the seven meetings. I want to thank the Ferry Advisory Committee members who helped publicize the meetings in their respective communities. Materials from the community meetings are available at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/CommuterUpdates/pub\\_meetings#materials](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/CommuterUpdates/pub_meetings#materials).

#### **Remarkable on-time performance**

The November on-time performance statistics are now available. As a system, WSF was on time 98 percent last month. I want to thank our hard-working vessel and terminal staff for that achievement. To learn how your route performed, visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/accountability/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/accountability/).

**WSF featured in *Passenger Ship Technology***

If you have attended any recent presentations I've given, you have heard me discuss liquefied natural gas as a potential, future fuel source for the ferry system. A magazine out of the United Kingdom picked up this story for their winter issue. You can read part of the story online at [www.rivieramm.com/article/American-owners-look-to-LNG-10629](http://www.rivieramm.com/article/American-owners-look-to-LNG-10629) and I have posted the full story on my weekly webpage at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly/).

**FAC Executive Council Meeting**

On Thursday, I met with the Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) Executive Council. The executive council is comprised of the chairs of the route FACs. We meet periodically to talk about ferry issues, customer and community issues. Yesterday's meeting was primarily focused on the community meeting topics, including the governor's Connecting Washington Task Force, ridership statistics, new vessel construction, and the vehicle reservations system. For materials, visit the community meetings webpage at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/CommuterUpdates/pub\\_meetings#materials](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/CommuterUpdates/pub_meetings#materials).

**Senate Transportation Committee presentations**

On Wednesday afternoon Deputy Chief George Capacci and I presented to the Senate Transportation Committee on the 144-car ferry construction program, and Deputy Chief Jean Baker and I presented on fuel hedging. I appreciated the opportunity to share progress to date on these important projects and answer questions. To learn more about the 144-car ferry construction and to view the presentation, visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Ferries/144CarFerries](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Ferries/144CarFerries). The fuel hedging presentation is available at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly/).

**Fauntleroy terminal construction completed**

WSF completed work at the Fauntleroy terminal this week to replace counterweight cables and repair one of the fender piles in the outer right dolphin. The counterweight cables attach to both sides of the movable bridge and the large concrete blocks inside of each tower. They are used to lower the unbalanced weight of the movable bridge. The dolphins are in-water structures that help guide a ferry into a terminal. All of the construction occurred during the evening to avoid customer impacts. This maintenance work helps improve the reliability of the terminal.

**Get into the holiday spirit – WSF's annual AFECT cruise**

This Saturday is the Active Ferry Employees Charitable Trust cruise for special people aboard the Puyallup. The crew and staff volunteer their time for this 90-minute cruise in Puget Sound. It is great opportunity for WSF employees to give back to the community this holiday season.

**Next Week:**

- Final meeting of the governor's Connecting Washington Task Force  
[www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/transportation/connectwa.asp](http://www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/transportation/connectwa.asp)
- Alaskan Way Viaduct coordination meeting
- Vehicle reservations community partnership meeting (Dec. 15)  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/Planning/VehicleReservations.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Ferries/Planning/VehicleReservations.htm)

David Moseley's weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly/).

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